

# An Interview with JOHN ADAMS

Adrian Sanford

**J**ohn Adams, Guest Conductor and Composer-in-Residence for the 1991 Cabrillo Music Festival, calls our festival "one of a kind" because of its "gratifying mix of the familiar and the unfamiliar." CMF, he states, is viewed by musicians with "pure delight and joy."

Adams compares CMF with other festivals. Unlike so many of the others that have become heavily commercial, all relying upon the same names and programs with too little imagination, Cabrillo has maintained its reputation for mixing the new with the familiar. The word has spread among topflight musicians, so many of whom come to participate in the Festival. Adams makes the point clearly, "They don't come to make money; they come to make music!"

**"I feel now we've entered into a time when what we demand of art is human engagement."**

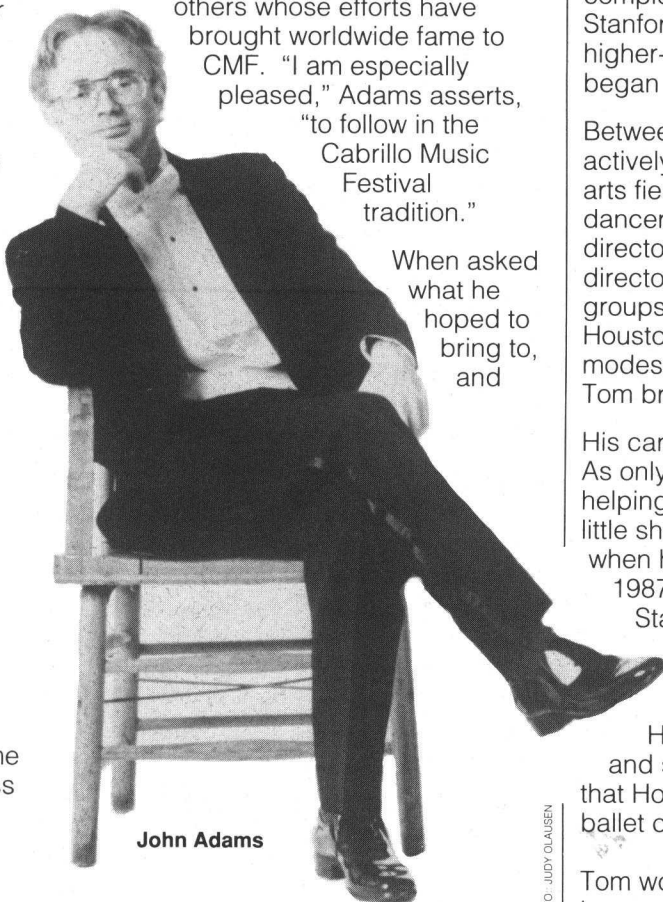
In a recent interview from his home in Berkeley, Adams ranged across a variety of topics bearing on his forthcoming appearance as next summer's musical director, substituting for Dennis Russell Davies during Davies' year-long sabbatical.

Adams applauded the estimable efforts of people who have been central to the Festival as it has grown - of the early work of Gerhad Samuel, who came from the Oakland Symphony to help lead Festival programming (along with Lou

Harrison, Bob Hughes, and others); of the unique contributions of Carlos Chavez, Latin American composer-conductor; and, of course, of the intensely personal leadership that Dennis Russell Davies has provided for the past 17 seasons.

He admires these and the many others whose efforts have brought worldwide fame to CMF. "I am especially pleased," Adams asserts, "to follow in the Cabrillo Music Festival tradition."

When asked what he hoped to bring to, and



John Adams

gain from, his appearance this July and August, Adams continued in his forthright manner: "As a composer-conductor — a species that seems to be nearing extinction, by the way — I want to bring the insight of a composer's point of view to the conducting."

## CLIPPING FILE

## CMF Welcomes NEW STAFF

Adrian Sanford

**CMF** has a new Executive Director, Tom Fredericks, and an Associate Director, Ellen Primack, both of whom come to the Santa Cruz area with a wealth of apt experience. Tom most recently served as Executive Director of the Louisville (KY) Ballet, operating with a 15-member staff and a budget of over \$2 million. He had gone there after completing his MBA degree at Stanford University, rounding out higher-level academic studies that began in 1965 at Notre Dame.

Between those dates Tom has been actively involved in the performing arts field as a professional ballet dancer, a marketing manager and director of music, and an executive director. He has worked with diverse groups in Chicago, New York, Houston, and Zurich. Although quietly modest about his accomplishments, Tom brings broad experience to CMF.

His career is packed with successes. As only one example, Tom's work in helping build the Houston Ballet is little short of astonishing. From 1980 when he joined that organization until 1987, when he left to attend

Stanford, Houston saw its ballet company grow from regional obscurity to true world prominence. "The Houston Ballet?" Tom pauses and smiles. "People didn't believe that Houston really had a full-fledged ballet company."

Tom worked to make believers. He began there in promotion and sales and moved up to become its marketing director. During those seven tough, oil-depression years he helped it grow from a small operation with a sub-million dollar budget to a top-ranked ballet company with more than 200 employees and an annual budget of over seven million dollars!

## COMMUNITY AWARENESS

**CMF** recently established a Community Awareness Committee under the apt chairmanship of Board Member Mary Wax who explains, "We want our communities to feel more than ever an integral part of the Festival. The purpose of this committee is to promote increased 'friendship and support' for the Cabrillo Music Festival among local communities."

The Committee is conducting a series of meetings throughout the season to map out plans and take action to effectuate its major purposes. Among the actions already functioning are the community housing of musicians and the establishment of a team of volunteer ushers as part of the Festival Production Staff.

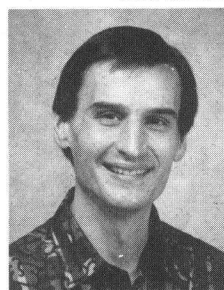
Putting "the festival back in the Festival" is another primary concern for the Community Awareness Committee. A sub-committee has formed to work with volunteers, downtown businesses, city officials, and Civic Auditorium staff to join forces to fill the streets with activities and the air with music during the 1991 Cabrillo Music Festival.

Mary Wax has as able members of the Committee the following Board members and volunteers: John Altman, Ceil Cirillo, Gail Charlotte, Teresita Hinojosa-Pereira, Luke Howe, JoAnn King, Frank Lanou, Leah McKim, Shirley Riskin, Marion Taylor, Jim Weller, and Doris Witte. If you would like to become involved in these community-based activities, please call the CMF office at 662-2701. Your energy and ideas are welcome!

### NEW STAFF

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Now Tom has come to CMF as Executive Director to help in our growth. "The quality of musicianship — the innovative programming, which is unique among festivals nationwide — these are outstanding. They can become the very basis for our growth. In fact," he adds quietly, "it is primarily the inherent musical quality of the Cabrillo Music Festival and its programming that attracted me here."



**Tom Fredericks**

Ellen Primack, CMF's recently appointed Associate Director, Marketing and Development, comes from three years as Public Relations Director for the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, a contemporary art museum located on the outskirts of Boston. There she oversaw all public relations activities of their active exhibition schedule, art school, and annual summer concert series. Prior to that, Ellen worked at Hill & Knowlton Public Relations, Boston, as an account specialist with a variety of consumer oriented clients.

PHOTO: TONY GRANT

Asked what attracted her to CMF, Ellen responded, "CMF champions the voice of 20th century American artists by providing a unique forum for contemporary composers' works. I truly believe in the contributions made by artists to our society and standard of living and feel committed to supporting them." Ellen adds, "It's really a privilege to work for an organization so successful in accomplishing that mission."

Already evident are some of the changes brought by Tom and Ellen, including this improved edition of *Fanfare*. Others are in the works. With their direction we look forward to the measurable quality of our "most venturesome" music festival. •



PHOTO: DIANA DAVIS

**"Bridge Trio": Beni Shinohara, Mary**

### CMF FUNDRAISING BOOSTED BY CHALLENGE GRANT

**T**he Greater Santa Cruz County Community Foundation has awarded Cabrillo Music Festival a 1:2 challenge grant to aid in its fundraising efforts to recover from the effects of the earthquake of 1989. Recently announced by Richard Klein, President of the CMF Board, and by Pamela Proddger, Program Officer of the Foundation, the grant to the Festival will provide \$10,000 when the Festival nets \$20,000 through increased charitable contributions and renewals of lapsed membership.

According to Klein, it is critical that all those affiliated with the Festival take

this as a stimulus to early and concentrated giving. "We are obviously pleased that the Greater Santa Cruz Community Foundation has seen fit to award us this challenge grant," he states. "It is a vote of confidence and support for the role of Cabrillo Music Festival in Santa Cruz County. At the same time, we mustn't assume that the grant is automatic. We must increase our own fundraising efforts to qualify for it."

This award enables CMF supporters to have an added impact on the organization's financial stability and ability to fulfill its 28 year tradition of presenting the composers and musicians of our time. If you were intending to give, but haven't yet — now is the perfect time to have your gift count for more! •

# THE <sup>new</sup> CABRILLO MUSIC FESTIVAL

## CHAMBER SERIES

Sundays, March 10 and April 14

The Cabrillo Music Festival, in collaboration with the Temple Beth El Jewish Community Center, is sponsoring a new musical feature to its annual program — two spring concerts initiating the Cabrillo Music Festival Chamber Series, to be held on Sunday, March 10, and Sunday April 14, at 5:00 p.m. in the Social Hall of Temple Beth El.

This series harkens back to CMF's origins — chamber music performances at a local coffeehouse — and offers the intimate, high quality concerts for which it has become renowned.

On Sunday, March 10, the all-women "Bridge Trio" featuring Festival Orchestra cellist Nina Flyer; violinist Beni Shinozaki — who appeared as a

soloist with the orchestra in 1989; and Mary Chun, will be joined by soprano Susan Narucki. The group will perform a Shostakovich piano trio (Op. 67), Hans Werner Henze's "Kammersonate," and a set of Scottish songs by Beethoven for soprano and piano trio.

The April 14th concert will present Pamela Goldsmith, Festival Orchestra co-principal viola; William Wohlmacher, principal clarinet; and pianist Ellen Wasserman. This concert will feature Ernest Bloch's "Suite Hebraique" and works by Robert Schumann and Mozart.

Each evening will begin at 4:00 p.m. with a Pre-Concert Talk offering commentary on the musical compositions to be presented. Following the concert there will be a light supper buffet for all participants which includes the opportunity to meet the musicians.



Susan Narucki

Tickets for both concerts, including Pre-Concert Talks and post-concert buffets, are \$25. Single tickets for each evening are \$15. Tickets may be

purchased at the Temple Beth El office, 3055 Porter Gulch Road, or the CMF office, 9053 Soquel Drive, Aptos, during business hours. Seating is limited, so order now! Remaining tickets will be sold at the door. For further information, call CMF at 662-2701. •

PHOTO: JIM BREEDING



Pamela Goldsmith



Chun, Nina Flyer

### ADAMS ... continued from page one

He expressed strong feelings about the importance of interpreting music he's conducting with the sensitivities of a composer. Conductor-composers such as Wagner in the last century and Bernstein in our time, to cite only two, have interpreted music for audiences in special ways because of their perspective as composers. 1991 Festival concert-goers will have the rare opportunity to hear, see, and be with a world-class conductor-composer who eagerly looks forward to bringing his insights as a composer to directing the Cabrillo Festival musicians.

What about minimalism? Adams is often labeled a minimalist composer. "It's perfectly true," he responds, "and I am comfortable with that, though I resist being categorized as *only* that. I would rather discuss style. I have been strongly influenced by minimalism. But

in my music minimalism constitutes only a part."

"Minimalism," he explains, "is the only really totally new stylistic development in the last 40 years. It has, however, become a kind of controversial tidal wave. And it has its good and bad aspects."

Adams admits that some of the more prominent pieces of minimalism are "rather bad." Exceptions are the works of Philip Glass, last summer's CMF guest artist, and Steven Reich. He takes a critical view of the several forms of "modernism," all the while keeping himself open to any and all influences that merit his study.

More important in Adams' view is what he tries to incorporate in his own work, namely, *expressiveness*. "It's critical for me to compose with expressiveness," he insists. "All this attempt by so many to attain modernism, or even 'post-

modernism,' just doesn't work."

"We've wearied of modernism," he goes on. "We've seen its death in the last 10 years."

Adams has strong feelings about humanity's conflicts, particularly now in light of events in the Persian Gulf. His concern is reflected in his opera "Nixon in China" and in a work in progress, "The Death of Klinghoffer," based on the *Achille Lauro* affair in the Mediterranean. Several of the selections planned for this season's CMF program express in one way or another the troubled conflicts of humans, conflicts that touch everyone. Adams explains, "I feel now we've entered into a time when what we demand of art is human engagement."

John Adams will be bringing his art to the Cabrillo Music Festival this summer to engage us as humans. We dare not miss the experience! •



THE 1991 CABRILLO MUSIC FESTIVAL DATES:  
JULY 25 — AUGUST 4

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## CMF's NEW MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

**T**hrough the leadership of the Fund Development Committee, chaired by Celia Hartman, Board Vice President, efforts are under way to expand membership in the Cabrillo Music Festival. The Committee has established five categories of giving, with compelling benefits for each membership level.

**Festival Fellows** - contributors of \$50 or more, are listed in the Season Program Book and receive a subscription to *Fanfare*;

**New Century Club** - contributors of \$100, receive an invitation to a special reception previewing the upcoming CMF Season — this year joined by Composer-in-Residence John Adams; "Members Only" advance ticket priority; and, inclusion on our Honor Roll of donors;

**Contemporaries** - contributors of \$250 or more, receive a free festival poster signed by John Adams, and two invitations to a post-concert reception with Festival Orchestra musicians;

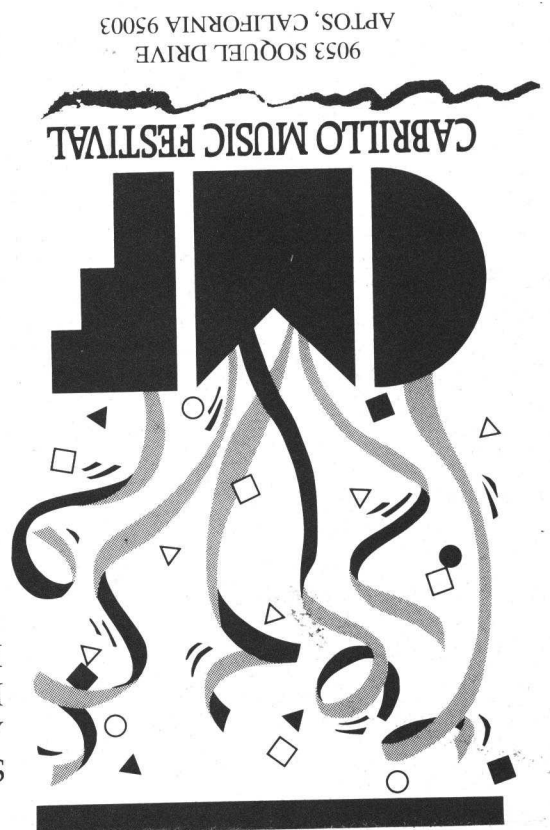
**Leading Edge** - contributors of \$500 or more, are invited to a private gala for this year's guest artists;

**Composer's Circle** - contributors of \$1000 or more, receive a signed festival artwork...

**and all benefits are cumulative!**

New members are welcomed to the family of Cabrillo Music Festival supporters and are urged to send their donations in early, in order to receive full benefits during the 1991 season — including priority ticket sales for upper-level members!

Contributions may be sent to  
CABRILLO MUSIC FESTIVAL, 9053  
Soquel Drive, Aptos, CA 95003. •



## 1991 CABRILLO MUSIC FESTIVAL DATES

**M**ark your summer calendars now for JULY 25 - AUGUST 4 — the 1991 Cabrillo Music Festival season. Santa Cruz's award-winning "new music" festival will continue its long tradition of excellence this summer under the direction of Conductor and Composer-in-Residence John Adams. You can count on twelve adventuresome concerts, an extraordinary day at Mission San Juan, a special family concert, and much more...so **SAVE THESE DATES** and join us!

On AUGUST 4, CMF will again feature its exciting between-concert **Benefit Auction** with a myriad of one-of-a-kind items for the music aficionado, the traveller and the collector. **Save up your pennies and HOLD THE DATE!**